

## General Assembly

## **Amendment**

February Session, 2008

LCO No. 4237

\*SB0044404237SD0\*

Offered by:

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 444

File No. 424

Cal. No. 259

## "AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN REVISIONS AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE ELECTION LAWS."

- In line 7, bracket "machine" and then insert "tabulator"
- 2 Delete section 7 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
- 3 accordingly
- 4 In line 594, strike the closing bracket
- 5 In line 595, insert a closing bracket after "statutes" and then insert
- 6 the following: "a court contest brought pursuant to chapter 149"
- 7 In line 599, strike "<u>also</u>" and insert "<u>be deemed to</u>"
- 8 Strike lines 773 to 784, inclusive, in their entirety and insert the
- 9 following in lieu thereof:
- 10 "Sec. 20. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2009) Any elector who is
- 11 permanently disabled and who files an application for an absentee
- 12 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that

13 such elector is permanently disabled and unable to appear in person at 14 such elector's designated polling location, shall be eligible for 15 permanent absentee ballot status and shall receive an application for 16 an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum conducted 17 in such elector's municipality for which such elector is eligible to vote. 18 Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall remain in effect 19 until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official registry list of the 20 municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee ballot status 21 pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) until the elector 22 requests that he or she no longer receive such permanent absentee 23 ballot status. The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each 24 such elector with permanent absentee ballot status in January of each 25 year, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for the purpose 26 of determining if such elector continues to reside at the address 27 indicated on their permanent absentee ballot application. If such 28 written notice is not returned within thirty days or returned as 29 undeliverable, the elector in question shall be removed from 30 permanent absentee ballot status. If such elector indicates on such 31 notice that they no longer reside at such address and the elector's new 32 address is within the same municipality, the registrars of voters shall 33 change the elector's address pursuant to section 9-35 of the general 34 statutes and such elector shall retain their permanent absentee ballot 35 status. If the elector indicates on such notice that they no longer live in 36 the municipality, such elector shall be removed from the registry list of 37 the municipality and the registrars of voters shall send such elector an 38 application for voter registration. Failure to return such written notice 39 shall not result in the removal of such individual from the official 40 registry list of the municipality."

- In line 788, after "be" insert "whenever practicable"
- In line 809, insert an opening bracket before "Nothwithstanding" and after "there" insert a closing bracket and "There"
- After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and internal references accordingly:

"Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State, or the secretary's designee, may issue a directive during any primary or election, including, but not limited to, a directive to the State Elections Enforcement Commission to enforce any regulation adopted by the Secretary of the State. Such directive shall be enforced in accordance with the provisions of section 9-3 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

Sec. 502. Section 9-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

55 The Secretary of the State, by virtue of the office, shall be the 56 Commissioner of Elections of the state, with such powers and duties 57 relating to the conduct of elections as are prescribed by law and, unless 58 otherwise provided by state statute, the secretary's regulations, 59 declaratory rulings, directives, instructions and opinions, if in written 60 form, shall be presumed as correctly interpreting and effectuating the 61 administration of elections and primaries under this title, except for 62 chapter 155, provided nothing in this section shall be construed to alter 63 the right of appeal provided under the provisions of chapter 54. 64 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the enforcement 65 of a directive issued by the Secretary of the State, or the secretary's 66 designee, concerning any primary or election.

67 Sec. 503. Section 9-4b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Secretary of the State shall, within available appropriations, establish an elections <u>and compliance</u> training unit to coordinate all training for registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters, permanent assistant registrars of voters as described in section 9-192 and poll workers <u>and to assure compliance with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations by persons holding such office or designation.</u> Such unit [shall] <u>may</u> employ [at least one person] <u>such persons as are necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section, including but not limited to, persons</u> having field experience in the conduct of elections.

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Sec. 504. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Secretary of the State, within available appropriations, shall have oversight of all election recounts in the state. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of the State, in consultation with the registrars of voters, shall establish a procedure for the recount of ballots in any election that provides for the conduct of such recount to consist of a combination of hand recounts and recount by use of voting tabulators. Any such procedure shall only be utilized to conduct a recount if the candidates for such office agree to the utilization of such procedure rather than a recount performed by hand. The Secretary of the State shall establish a recount team that shall consist of five persons, except that in the case of a general election, such team shall consist of two members from each party with candidates on the ballot.

Sec. 505. Section 9-236 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (d) The Secretary of the State, or the secretary's designee, shall be allowed access to each polling place located within the state during any municipal, state or federal election or primary for the purpose of providing guidance and instruction concerning the requirements of state and federal election law, except that whenever the Secretary of the State is a candidate in such election or primary, the secretary shall not personally access such polling place for any reason, other than to cast the secretary's own ballot, and the secretary's designee for any such election or primary shall be limited to a civil service classified employee.

Sec. 506. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*): Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any recanvass conducted pursuant to chapter 148 of the general statutes shall be completed as soon as is practicable but in no case later than ten business days after such election.

Sec. 507. Section 9-35 of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

(a) The registrars of voters, on the Tuesday of the fifth week before each regular election, shall [be in session for the purpose of completing a correct] complete a list of all electors who will be entitled to vote at such election. Such registry list shall consist of an active registry list and an inactive registry list. [Such session shall be held during such hours between nine o'clock a.m. and five o'clock p.m. as the registrars find necessary to complete the list. Notice of such session shall be given at least five days before the session by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in such municipality, if any, and by posting on the signpost therein, if any, or at some other exterior place near the office of the town clerk. Such publication shall not be required to be in the form of a legal advertisement.]

(b) [At such session and on any day except on the day of an election or primary, the registrars On a routine basis throughout the year, the registrars of voters shall remove from the list the name of each elector who has died, who has been disfranchised or who has confirmed in writing that the elector has moved out of the municipality, except electors entitled to remain on such list under the provisions of this chapter. An elector shall be deemed to have confirmed in writing that the elector has moved out of the municipality if (1) the elector has submitted a change of address form for purposes of a state motor vehicle operator's license, unless the elector states on the form that the change of address is not for voter registration purposes, (2) the elector has submitted a change of address form to a voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n, and such agency has provided such change of address to the registrars of voters, or (3) the registrars of voters have received a cancellation of previous registration from any other election official indicating that such elector has registered as an elector outside such municipality.

(c) Whenever the registrars of voters of a town remove from the registry list the name of an elector who has submitted a change of address to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or a voter registration

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agency under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of this section, 143 144 indicating that the elector has moved out of such town, the registrars 145 of voters shall send the elector, by forwardable mail to the elector's former address from such list or current address in the new town, (1) a 146 147 notice of removal, (2) information explaining how to have the elector's 148 name restored to such list, which shall be in a form prescribed by the 149 Secretary of the State, and (3) a mail-in voter registration application which can be used by the elector to apply for admission as an elector in 150 151 the new town. If such notice, information and application are sent to 152 the elector's former address and are returned undeliverable, the 153 registrars of voters shall mail such documents to the elector's address 154 in the new town.

(d) The registrars of voters shall enter the names on such list by street and number of the house, when the houses are numbered, so that there shall be entered on the list first, the street, avenue or road; second, the number of the house or residence in numerical order or, if the registrars of any town find it more convenient, by odd and even numbers in numerical order; and third, the names of the electors in such house in alphabetical order. The names of any electors who cannot be so listed shall be listed alphabetically in the voting district wherein any such elector is a bona fide resident. The registrars of voters may consecutively number the names on the registry list, may include voter identification numbers for the names on the registry list, and may include a mark, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State, next to the name of each first-time registrant on the system who registers to vote on or after January 1, 2003, and does not provide identification with his or her mail-in voter registration application as provided in the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended from time to time, provided such list shall comply in all respects with the requirements of law other than for the addition of such numbers and marks. The registrars of voters shall not use Social Security numbers for any such voter identification numbers.

(e) In any case in which the registrars of voters have obtained reliable information of an elector's change of address within the

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municipality, they shall enter the name of such elector on the registry list at the place where the elector then resides, provided, if such reliable information is the National Change of Address System of the United States Postal Service, the [registrar] registrars of voters shall change the registry list and send the elector a notice of the change by forwardable mail and a postage prepaid preaddressed return form by which the elector may verify or correct the address information. If during the canvass the registrars of voters determine that an elector has moved out of town and such elector has not confirmed in writing that the elector has moved out of the town, the registrars of voters shall, not later than May first, send to the elector, by forwardable mail, a notice required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, together with a postage prepaid preaddressed return card on which the elector may state the elector's current address. In the year of a presidential preference primary, the registrars of voters shall send such notice not earlier than the date of such primary. If the [registrar does] registrars of voters do not receive the return card within thirty days after it is sent, the elector's name, including the name of an elector who has not voted in two consecutive federal elections, shall be placed on the inactive registry list for four years. At the expiration of such period of time on the inactive registry list, such name shall be removed from the registry list. If such elector applies to restore the elector's name to the active registry list or votes during such period, the elector's name shall be restored to the active registry list. Such registrars of voters shall retain a duplicate copy or data entry record of each such [notice] transaction in their office [or, if they do not have a permanent office, in the office space provided under section 9-5a,] and shall [note] record on such duplicate copy or record the date on which such notice was mailed. In each municipality, any elector, upon change of residence within the municipality, may cause the elector's registration to be transferred to the elector's new address by presenting to the registrars of voters a signed request [therefore, stating] for such transfer, such as a voter registration card with a change of address checked off, which states the elector's present address [, the date the elector moved to such address] and the address

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at which the elector was last registered. The registrars of voters shall thereupon enter the elector's name on the list at the elector's new residence; provided no transfer of registration shall be made on the registry list on election day without the consent of both registrars. On election day, the name of such elector shall be added to the supplemental list after the appropriate paperwork is signed.

Sec. 508. Section 9-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

Immediately after the close of the session or immediately after the sending of notice of intended removal provided for in section 9-35, the The registrars of voters shall post at the town hall or municipal building in the municipality in which they serve, in a place readily accessible to the public, a list of the names of the electors whose names were removed from the registry list [at such session or will be removed on the date specified in accordance with section 9-35, as amended by this act, together with the address of each such elector as it appeared on the registry list at the time the name was so removed. Together with such list, and as a part thereof, such registrars of voters shall also cause to be posted a statement that complete information as to such removal and as to the privileges and remedies of those whose names were removed from the registry list is available from such registrars of voters, specifying when and where such registrars of voters are available for such purpose and [, in the case of registrars of voters having office hours, specifying such office hours for such registrars of voters.

Sec. 509. Section 9-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

The list for which provision is made in section 9-35, as amended by this act, shall be termed the preliminary registry list and such list shall be [completed, certified by such registrars and deposited in the town clerk's office, at least thirty-one days before the regular election, and shall be on file in such office] available in the office of the registrars of

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244 voters for public inspection [until the next preliminary registry list has 245 been completed and filed. In each municipality having a population of 246 more than five thousand, a certified copy of such preliminary registry 247 list for each voting district therein shall be completed, reproduced, 248 certified by the registrars and posted in such municipality for public 249 inspection on or before the Saturday of the fifth week before each 250 regular election, and copies shall be made available for distribution by 251 the registrars of voters. Whenever the registrars of voters are not in 252 their office, such list shall be placed outside of the office for public 253 inspection. The registrars of voters shall, upon request, give to [a] any 254 candidate for election [to the General Assembly] a copy of the 255 preliminary registry list for each voting district [included in the 256 General Assembly district] for which such person is a candidate.

Sec. 510. Section 9-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

[Each registrar shall keep a copy of the preliminary registry list for his use in revision. Such registrars shall give notice in such list of the times and places at which they will hold one or more sessions during the period between the Saturday of the fifth week before the regular election and the Saturday of the fourth week before the regular election, for the revision and correction of such list which, when completed, shall be termed the "final registry list" for such election. In each municipality having a population of more than five thousand, they shall also give notice of such times and places by publication in a newspaper circulating in such municipality and by posting the same on the signpost therein, if any, and at the office of the town clerk at least five days before the first of such sessions. The number of sessions shall be fixed by the registrars of each municipality. The registrars shall also hold sessions, of which no public notice need be given, for the purpose of correcting such preliminary list, and for the purpose of adding to such list the names of persons entitled to be registered thereon, on each day they are in session for the admission of electors pursuant to section 9-17, and they may also hold sessions for revision and correction of the registry list on any other day, except during the

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278 period of six days preceding any regular election. On the fourteenth 279 day before a primary, the registrars shall hold an additional session to 280 hear such requests for adding names to the registry list, in accordance 281 with the procedure provided in this section, and the registrars shall 282 publish notice of such sessions in a newspaper having general 283 circulation in such municipality at least five days before such sessions. 284 Nothing in this section shall require that such publication be in the 285 form of a legal advertisement.] The registrars of voters shall be 286 available before all elections for revisions and corrections of the 287 preliminary list which, when completed, shall be termed "the final 288 registry list" for such election. In each municipality, availability of the 289 registrars of voters shall be the posted office hours in such municipality for the registrars of voters. 290

Sec. 511. Section 9-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

The registrars of voters in all towns shall [, on the second Friday preceding a regular election, deposit in the town clerk's office the final registry list arranged as provided in section 9-35 and certified by them to be correct, and shall retain a sufficient number of copies to be used by them at such election for the purpose of checking the names of those who vote. They shall place on such final list, in the order provided in section 9-35, the names of all persons who have been admitted as electors. In each municipality said registrars shall also cause to be prepared and printed and deposited in the town clerk's office a supplementary or updated list containing the names and addresses of electors to be transferred, restored or added to such list prior to the fourth day before such election, provided in municipalities having a population of less than twenty-five thousand, such additional names may be inserted in writing in such final list. Such final registry list and supplementary or updated list deposited in the town clerk's office shall be on file in such office for public inspection for a period of two years, and any elector may make copies thereof produce a final registry list arranged in accordance with the provisions of section 9-35, as amended by this act, and certified by the registrars of voters to be

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312 correct. Such final registry list and supplementary or updated list shall

- be on file in the municipal clerk's office not later than the day before
- election day and shall be available in the registrars of voters' office for
- 315 <u>public inspection. Whenever the registrars of voters are not in their</u>
- office, such list shall be placed outside of the office for public
- 317 <u>inspection</u>. Any elector may request copies of such list.

- Sec. 512. Section 9-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 319 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):
- 320 The registrars of voters of each municipality shall, upon request,
- 321 print copies of the final registry list for distribution in such
- 322 municipality and in all the voting districts located therein. [, provided
- 323 nothing in sections 9-12 to 9-45, inclusive, shall require the printing of
- more than one final registry list for any voting district in any one year.
- 325 With each printing such registrars shall retain at least two copies of
- such lists and such copies shall be available for public use in the office
- of the registrars for a period of two years.] The registrars shall, upon
- 328 request, give to [a] any candidate for election [to the General
- 329 Assembly] a copy of the final registry list for each voting district
- 330 [included in the General Assembly district] for which such person is a
- 331 candidate <u>and shall maintain such list, either on paper or in electronic</u>
- 332 <u>format, for a period of two years</u>.
- Sec. 513. Section 9-50a of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):
- The registrars of voters of each town shall [, on a monthly basis,]
- 336 compile a list of (1) all persons whose names were added, restored,
- 337 removed or erased from the active and inactive registry lists, [during
- 338 the preceding month,] (2) all electors who changed either their names
- or addresses, [during such period] and (3) all persons sent notices
- 340 required under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
- 341 31, as amended from time to time, and all persons who have replied to
- 342 such notices. Such list shall include, but not be limited to, each such
- 343 person's or elector's (A) name, (B) former name, [if changed during

344 such period,] (C) address, [including zip code,] (D) former address,

- [including zip code, if changed during such period,] (E) voting district,
- and (F) party affiliation, if any. The registrars shall make each such list
- 347 available to the public [in accordance with the provisions of section 1-
- 348 210] upon such request.

- Sec. 514. Section 9-55 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):
  - (a) The registrars of voters shall cause to be printed [at least once during the calendar year a sufficient number of copies of complete, corrected enrollment lists certified by them as correct, provided a supplementary or updated list shall be printed within one week after a session held on the fourteenth day before a primary] a complete enrollment list and shall make such list available to the public upon request.
    - (b) If a political party authorizes unaffiliated electors to vote in a primary, under section 9-431, and a notice of primary is published, the registrars shall cause a list of all unaffiliated electors eligible to vote in the primary to be printed [within one week after the session held on the fourteenth day] before such primary. If unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote in only one party's primary and are authorized to vote for all offices to be contested at the primary, the registrars may print the list of unaffiliated electors in combination with such party's enrollment list, indicating party affiliation where applicable.
    - (c) If the legislative body of the municipality votes to eliminate separate enrollment lists under section 9-54 and:
    - (1) Notices of primaries are published for two parties to be held on the same day, the registrars of voters shall print complete separate enrollment lists [within one week after the enrollment session held on the fourteenth day before the primary] and, if unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote in the primary, the registrars of voters shall print a separate list of unaffiliated electors as provided in subsection (b) of this section; or

(2) A notice of primary is published for one party in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote for some but not all offices to be contested at the primary, the registrars of voters shall print a complete separate enrollment list and a separate list of unaffiliated electors as provided in subsection (b) of this section; or

- (3) A notice of primary is published for only one party and (A) unaffiliated electors are not authorized to vote, or (B) unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote for all offices to be contested at the primary, a registry list may be used as a checklist at the primary and the registrars of voters shall [, within one week after the session held on the fourteenth day before such primary,] print a supplementary or updated list indicating those electors who have become eligible to vote in the primary since the printing of the registry list.
- (d) Whenever a list is required by this section to be printed, [within one week after the session held on the fourteenth day before the primary,] a supplement to such list shall be compiled by the registrars of voters of persons who after such date and prior to twelve o'clock noon of the last business day before the primary become eligible to vote in such primary. The registrars of voters may combine such separate compilation with the foregoing printed list [either by inserting the names in writing or] by reprinting the list or incorporating the supplementary [or updated list into a single printed] list.
- (e) The registrars of voters shall [file one copy of each such list with the town clerk which copy shall be] make available for public use such list in the office of the [town clerk] registrars of voters until the printing of the next completed [, corrected] enrollment list; and they shall deliver to the chairman of the town committee of each political party [five] copies of each such list for each voting district in the town. Whenever the registrars of voters are not in their office, such list shall be placed outside of the office for public inspection. Upon request the registrars of voters shall give one complete set of such lists to each candidate for nomination for any office or for election as a town committee member. They shall deliver a sufficient number of copies

thereof to the moderator of each primary. [With each printing the registrars shall retain at least six copies of each such list and such copies shall be available for public use in the office of the registrars until the printing of the next complete, corrected enrollment list.] No petition brought under the provisions of section 9-63 shall operate to delay the completion and printing of such lists. If the petition of any elector is granted after any such list has been completed, the [registrar or assistant registrar] registrars of voters or assistant registrars of voters, as the case may be, shall issue to such elector a certificate showing that the elector is entitled to the privileges accompanying enrollment in the political party named in the elector's petition.

- Sec. 515. Section 9-169g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):
  - (a) The [town clerk] <u>registrars of voters</u> of any municipality (1) which is divided between two or more assembly districts, two or more senatorial districts or two or more congressional districts, or (2) which is not divided between any such districts but is divided into two or more voting districts for General Assembly or congressional elections, shall submit to the Secretary of the State a street map of the municipality which indicates the boundary lines of the voting districts established by the municipality in accordance with sections 9-169, <u>as amended by this act</u>, 9-169a and 9-169d. The [town clerk] <u>registrars of voters</u> shall submit such map to the [secretary] <u>Secretary of the State</u> (A) not later than July 30, 1997, if any such division is in effect on July 1, 1997, or, if no such division is in effect on July 1, 1997, not later than thirty days after any change in any such division takes effect.
  - (b) The Secretary of the State shall make such maps available to the General Assembly, for use by the General Assembly in carrying out its responsibilities under (1) Article XXVI of the Amendments to the Constitution of Connecticut, or any subsequent corresponding state constitutional provision, with regard to the redistricting of assembly, senatorial and congressional districts, and (2) Public Law 94-171,

concerning the establishment of a plan identifying the geographic areas for which specific tabulations of population are desired in the decennial census of the United States.

- Sec. 516. Section 9-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):
- [(a) As used in this section and section 9-31b, "permanently physically disabled person" means a person who, by reason of a major defect or infirmity of body, whether congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease, is permanently physically incapacitated to a degree that prevents him and will continue to prevent him from appearing in person at the office of the town clerk or registrars of the town where he temporarily or permanently resides.
- (b) Any permanently physically disabled person may, in the manner prescribed under this section and upon a form as prescribed under section 9-31b, apply to the town clerk or either registrar of voters of such town for examination and admission as an elector of any Connecticut town. (1) In the case of a permanently physically disabled person whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such town are attained on or before the last session for admission of electors prior to an election to be held in the town, the application shall be submitted so that it will be received by such town clerk or either registrar of voters not later than such last session. Upon receipt of the application, the town clerk or either registrar of voters shall notify the applicant of the day, and the hour, such day to be within ten days of the receipt of the application, at which an admitting official shall meet with the applicant at the temporary or permanent residence of the applicant. (2) In the case of a permanently physically disabled person whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such town are attained after the last session for admission of electors prior to an election to be held in the town, the application shall be submitted so that it will be received by such town clerk or either registrar of voters not later than the opening of the limited session for the admission of electors held, under section 9-17, on the last weekday prior to the

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election. Upon receipt of the application, the town clerk or either registrar of voters shall notify the applicant of the day, and the hour, such day and hour to be not later than 5:00 p.m. on the last weekday before the election, at which an admitting official shall meet with the applicant at the temporary or permanent residence of the applicant.

- (c) Such admitting official shall meet at the appointed time with the applicant for the purpose of examining his qualifications as an elector and for the purpose of admitting him as an elector if the applicant is found qualified. Such official shall make available to the applicant at such time, upon request, a copy of the statement that specifies each eligibility requirement and contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement (1) in video form in accordance with procedures established by the registrars of voters and (2) in braille, large print and audio form. Such official shall provide the applicant with a written notice of approval or disapproval at that time, except as otherwise provided in section 9-19e. Any person making application for registration under this section shall be entitled to the privileges of an elector and party enrollment, if applicable, from the time such application for admission as an elector is approved by the town clerk or registrars of voters of his voting residence.]
- (a) Any disabled person who cannot register to vote by mail or in person at the office of the registrars of voters may request of the registrars of voters that an admitting official be sent to the person's residence to assist the applicant with the application for admission as an elector. The registrars of voters shall act promptly on any such request. If election-related materials in alternative formats are requested by such person, the registrars of voters shall provide such materials in accordance with any applicable state or federal law.
- (b) In the case of a disabled person whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence in such town are attained after the last session for admission of electors prior to an election to be held in the town, the person shall be admitted by either registrar of voters not later than five o'clock p.m. on the last weekday before the election. An admitting

official shall meet with the applicant at the temporary or permanent residence of the applicant at such time of admission.

- (c) Any person that makes application for admission as an elector pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be entitled to the privileges of an elector and party enrollment, if applicable, from the time such application for admission as an elector is approved by the registrars of voters.
- Sec. 517. Subsection (a) of section 9-264 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):
- 518 (a) An elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of 519 blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be 520 given assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the 521 elector's employer, (2) an agent of such employer, [or] (3) an officer or 522 agent of the elector's union, or (4) a candidate on the ballot. The registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters, as the case my 523 524 be, shall request the name of the person providing assistance. If the 525 elector refuses to provide the name of the person providing assistance, 526 such refusal shall be recorded but shall not deny the elector the right to 527 <u>vote</u>. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into 528 the voting [machine] booth. Such person shall register such elector's 529 vote upon the [machine] ballot as such elector directs. Any person 530 accompanying an elector into the voting [machine] booth who deceives 531 any elector in registering [his] the elector's vote under this section or 532 seeks to influence any elector while in the act of voting, or who 533 registers any vote for any elector or on any question other than as 534 requested by such elector, or who gives information to any person as 535 to what person or persons such elector voted for, or how [he] the 536 elector voted on any question, shall be fined not more than one 537 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.
- Sec. 518. Section 9-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

No official or other person at any election shall, in the [enclosure where the ballot box and stub box are placed, or in any room or booth herein mentioned,] polling place, suggest to any elector the name of any political party or candidate for any office. No person shall assist or offer to assist any elector in the preparation of [his] the ballot. [to be used in voting, unless appointed for that purpose by the moderator of the election.] No elector shall receive [such] assistance unless [he is physically incapable of preparing his ballot, and the moderator shall be the sole judge of such physical disability] the elector requests assistance. In such case, [of such physical disability, the moderator] the elector shall [, upon the request of the elector, appoint two electors of different parties, and such persons shall render such assistance as the elector requires in the preparation of his ballot] choose whom the elector would like to have assist him or her in casting the ballot.

Sec. 519. Section 9-17a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

As used in sections 9-17, 9-19b, 9-19c(a), 9-20, <u>as amended by this act</u>, 9-23a, 9-24, 9-31a, <u>as amended by this act</u>, [9-31b] and 9-31*l*, unless otherwise provided, the term "admitting official" means a town clerk, assistant town clerk, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters, assistant registrar of voters, special assistant registrar of voters or the board for admission of electors.

Sec. 520. Subsection (b) of section 9-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

(b) The applicant's statement shall be delivered to the registrars immediately and shall be kept by the registrars as a public record in a safe depository, except that no Social Security number obtained by the registrars prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. Any such statement of an elector whose name has been removed from the registry list for a period of at least five years may be placed on microfilm, destroyed or otherwise

disposed of by such registrars, in the manner provided in section 7-109. Upon the request of any elector, or if the applicant does not present a birth certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card as required by subsection (a) of this section, at the time an application is made in person to an admitting official or prior to the approval of such an application, any admitting official shall require the applicant to prove his identity, place of birth, age and bona fide residence by the testimony under oath of at least one elector or by the presentation of proof satisfactory to such admitting official. Each person found qualified shall thereupon be admitted as an elector, except as provided in sections 9-12, 9-19e, 9-19g and 9-30. The registrars may request an elector whose date of birth is missing from their records to voluntarily furnish his date of birth. Any admitting official may administer oaths in any matter coming before him under section 9-12, 9-17, 9-19b, subsection (a) of section 9-19c, section 9-19e, 9-19g, 9-23, 9-23a, 9-25, 9-31a, as amended by this act, [9-31b,] 9-31l, 9-40a or this section. Said admitting official shall prohibit any activity which interferes with the orderly process of admission of electors.

Sec. 521. Section 9-322a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Within [sixty] <u>fifteen</u> days following each regular state election, the town clerk of each town divided into voting districts shall file with the Secretary of the State a consolidated listing, [in tabular or summary form] on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State, of the official returns of each such voting district for all offices voted on at such election, including the total number of votes cast for each candidate, the total number of names on the registry list, and the total number of names checked as having voted, in each such district. Each listing filed under this section shall be retained by the Secretary of the State not less than ten years after the date of the election for which it was filed.

Sec. 522. (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Sections 9-31b, 9-31d, 9-58 and 9-603 195 of the general statutes are repealed."

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